

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of displaying status information of a patient's heart rhythm comprising:

providing a cardiac rhythm management device with having a plurality of deadfront status indicator lamps ~~on the front of~~ a case sized to be held within the patient's hand, and ~~including~~ a self-contained power supply within the case, the deadfront status indicator lamps each including a deadfront icon that is illuminated for viewing on a front of the case;

querying an implantable pulse generating device with the cardiac rhythm management device via wireless telemetry;

receiving status information from the implantable pulse generating device regarding the rhythm of the patient's heart; and

displaying the status information visually using the status indicator lamps.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating an audible signal to communicate the status information in conjunction with the visual display.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the audible signal is a voice signal.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the voice signal includes natural language messages.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the status information indicates that the patient's heart rhythm has been fast for more than forty-eight hours and a first deadfront status indicator lamp signaling fast rhythm and a second deadfront status indicator lamp signaling that the patient should contact a medical care provider are illuminated simultaneously.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein when the first and second deadfront status indicator lamps are illuminated to signal a persistent fast rhythm condition, no other visual or audible signals are generated by the cardiac rhythm management device.

7. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of deadfront status indicator lamps indicates when the cardiac rhythm management device has received information from the implanted pulse generating device that the current heart rhythm is within an acceptable range.

8. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of deadfront status indicator lamps indicates when the cardiac rhythm management device has received information from the implanted pulse generating device that the implantable device has detected that a condition of the implanted device or the heart rhythm is beyond acceptable parameters and the patient should contact a physician.

9. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of deadfront status indicator lamps indicates when the cardiac rhythm management device has received information from the implanted pulse generating device that a shock by the implanted pulse generating device has been scheduled.

10. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a fourth deadfront status indicator icon indicates when the telemetry circuitry has received information from the implantable device that the current heart rhythm is not within normal rhythm parameters.

11. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac rhythm management device further includes a therapy request button mounted in the case, and depressing the therapy request button causes the cardiac rhythm management device to initiate a shock therapy with the implanted device.

12. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac rhythm management device further includes a status inquiry button that is mounted in the case, and depressing the status inquiry button causes the cardiac rhythm management device to query the implanted device and receive information from the implanted device.

13. (new) A method of displaying status information of a patient's heart rhythm using a cardiac rhythm management device, the cardiac rhythm management device including a case sized to be held within the patient's hand, a plurality of deadfront status indicator lamps exposed for viewing on a front of the case, a plurality of LEDs within the case, and a self-contained power supply within the case, the method comprising:

querying a pulse generating device with the cardiac rhythm management device via wireless telemetry, the pulse generating device being implanted within the patient;

receiving status information from the implanted pulse generating device with the cardiac rhythm management device, the information regarding the patient's heart rhythm; and

illuminating at least one of the deadfront status indicator lamps using at least one of the plurality of LEDs, thereby displaying the status information visually.

14. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the deadfront status indicator lamps each include an icon, and illuminating the icon with at least one of the plurality of LEDs makes the icon visible.

15. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of LEDs emits a different color and displaying the status information includes a combination of colors from the LEDs and images from the deadfront status indicator lamps.

16. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the cardiac rhythm management device includes first and second buttons, the first button configured to initiate querying of the implanted pulse generating device and receiving of the status information, and the second button configured to initiate a shock therapy with the implanted device in response to the displayed status information.

17. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the cardiac rhythm management device includes four deadfront status indicator lamps and four LEDs, and illuminating at least one of the deadfront status indicator lamps includes simultaneously illuminating two or more of the deadfront status indicator lamps.

18. (new) A method of communicating information about a patient's heart using a cardiac management device, the cardiac management device including a case, a plurality of deadfront status indicator icons exposed for viewing on the case, a plurality of light generating members within the case, and at least one button mounted in the case, the method comprising:

activating the button to initiate communication via wireless telemetry between the cardiac management device and a pulse generating device that is implanted in the patient, wherein the wireless telemetry communication includes receiving information related to the patient's heart from the implanted pulse generating device with the cardiac management device; and

illuminating at least one of the deadfront status indicator icons using at least one of the plurality of light generating members to visually communicate the information to the patient.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein each deadfront status indicator is illuminated by a separate light generating member.

20. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the wireless telemetry communication includes receiving information related to a condition of the implanted device.